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THE PHANTOM

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NO. 27



THE PHANTOM

THE STORY OF HERO



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HAVING DECIDED TO PAY THE
MOUNTAIN A SURPRISE VISIT,
DIANA PALMER CROSSES A
CRUDE ROPE BRIDGE OVER A
RAGING RIVER...



Suddenly...



NEAR THE RIVER, HERO HAS
BEEN GRAZING ALONE... HIS
SENSITIVE EARS PICK UP THE
SOUND OF DIANA'S SCREAMS...



FIGHTING AGAINST CURRENTS,
HERO STRIVES TO RESCUE DIANA AND
MANAGES TO GRASP HER ARMED!
THEN, THE ADORABLE HORSE
SLOWLY PULLS HER TO SHORE...



LATER, IN THE DEEP WOODS...

HE SAVED
MY SISTER!

THERE IS NO HORSE IN THE
WORLD LIKE HERO! HE IS A
BRAVE AND GALLANT
FRIEND!

YOU NEVER TOLD ME... HOW
WERE YOU LUCKY ENOUGH TO
FIND A HORSE LIKE *HERO*?

IT'S QUITE A STORY, DIANA!
IT GOES BACK TO THE TIME
WHEN I FIRST BECAME
PHANTOM!

"YEARS AGO, TWO EVIL MEN
TRAVELED TOWARD THE KINGDOM
OF KASHRA WITH ONE PURPOSE...
TO ABDUCT THE DAUGHTER OF
KING SUROR!"

THERE IT IS! SUROR'S
PALACE! JUST AS THE
MAP SAYS... THE JUNGLE
ON ONE SIDE AND
DESERT ON THE OTHER!

HE'S VERY
WEALTHY! HE'LL
PAY *ANY* RANSOM
WE ASK!

YEARS! BUT
FIRST, WE'VE GOT
TO GET HIS
DAUGHTER! I
HEAR HE HAS
MANY GOONS
GUARDING THE
PLACE!

IT'LL TAKE
MOREN A PACK
OF GOONS TO
OUT-SMART
MYST LESTER!

WHY DO YOU THINK I BROUGHT
ALL THIS *ROCK* ALONG? THEY
WON'T PAY *ANY* ATTENTION
WHEN THEY SEE THIS!

THAT AGENT, THE KIDNAPPER
BEGAN TO EXECUTE THEIR PLAN...



THEY KNOW THE LAYOUT
OF THE PALACE...



...AND SOON FIND THEIR WAY
TO THE KING'S ROOM...



WITH PERFECT TIMING, THE
ADVENTURERS MAKE THEIR
ESCAPE, WHILE THE REST OF
THE PALACE SLEEPS...

SIMPLY, THEY DRIVE DEEP INTO
THE JUNGLE...



MILES AWAY FROM THE PALACE, THEY
FEEL SAFE ENOUGH TO MAKE CAMP...



*THE NEXT DAY THEY CONTINUE
THEIR JOURNEY...*

WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE
CITY, I'LL SEND A ~~RAMBLON~~
NOTE TO KING ~~BRON~~!

I'LL BE GLAD TO GET BACK TO
CIVILIZATION! THIS JUNGLE
GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

*BUT THE JUNGLE HAS STRANGE
WAYS OF DEALING WITH EVIL...*

I CAN'T SEE A FOOT
IN FRONT OF ME!

STUCK! WE'LL NEVER
GET IT OUT!

WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO?

FROM HERE ON
WE GO ON FOOT!
GET THE GEAR!

ON FOOT?
IN THIS
JUNGLE?

THERE'S A RIVER NOT
FAR FROM HERE! NOBBS
WE CAN RAPE A CANOE!

SLOWLY, THE TWO MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE. THEY DON'T KNOW IT, BUT THEY ARE ENTERING BEARALI COUNTRY, AND SILENT EYES ARE WATCHING...



SOON, JUNGLE BEARS BEGIN TO SPEAK TO THE PHANTOM...

THEY REACH THE RIVER, AND, AS LOOK WOULD HAVE IT, FIND A CANOE...

**TWO STRANGERS COME -
GIRL-CHILD WITH THEM**

TWO MEN AND A YOUNG
GIRL TRAVELING ON FOOT?
STRANGE, INDEED, AND
VERY DANGEROUS!



*BUT THEIR LUCK TAKES A SUDDEN
TURN FOR THE WORSE...*



THEY'RE!
STEAL MY
CANOE!

TRY AND STOP US!



ANOTHER ANTIPE APPEARS, AND THE ADVENTURERS HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL!



WHILE THE FIGHT RAGES, AROUND, UNNOTICED, QUIETLY PUSHER THE CANOE INTO THE WATER...



IF ONLY THEY DON'T SEE HE...

HEY! GUS'S GETTING AWAY!!



GONE!

I KNOW I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LISTENED TO HENRY! IT WAS A WATERBRAINED IDEA FROM THE START!



MOMENTS LATER, THE PHANTOM
ARRIVES TO FIND THE TWO MEN IN
THE HANDS OF THE BANDIT, THE
POISON POISON PEOPLE...

A THOUSAND POISON ARROWS ARE
POINTED AT YOU, GENTLEMEN! ONLY
MY PRESENCE IS KEEPING YOU ALIVE!
WHY WERE YOU IN THE JUNGLE WITH
A YOUNG CHILD?

OUT WITH IT!

THEY QUICKLY CONFESS
THE ASSASSINATIONS...

"YOU KIDNAPPED KING
SARON'S DAUGHTER,
MELONIE? *WHOW?*
IS SHE?"

"SHE ESCAPED!
... TOOK THE CANOE
DOWN THE RIVER!"

KEEP THESE MEN ANYWHERE
UNTIL I RETURN! I'LL HAND
THEM OVER TO THE PROPER
AUTHORITIES, THEN!

YES, O'
GHOST WHO
WALKS!

"I WOULDN'T ADVISE TRYING
TO ESCAPE, GENTLEMEN...
THOSE POISON ARROWS
KILL IN SECONDS!"

I'VE GOT TO FIND MELONIE!
KING SARON IS A FRIEND OF
MINE! I REMEMBER HER
WHEN SHE WAS ONLY
A BABY!

MILES AWAY, ADELPHI DRAFTS
IN THE CANOE...IN HER HASTE TO
ESCAPE, SHE HAS LEFT THE HULL
ON SHORE...

I DON'T KNOW WHERE
I'M GOING, BUT ANY-
THING IS BETTER THAN
BEING A THOSE
AWFUL MEN.

FOUNDERED, SHE
CALLS AHEAD...

NEXT MORNING...

I'M ABOARD. I
BETTER GET BACK
IN THE HOLE OF
THE FLEE WHERE
IT'S SAFE.

TAKE
HER TO THE
CHIEF!

AH! AH!

YIH!

WHILE THE PHANTOM SEARCHES
THE OTHER BANK...



MELONE IS TAKEN TO THE CHIEF
OF THE SHARK TRIBES... A REBEL
BAND OF MIGHTY OUTLAWS...



THE CHIEF SPEAKS...

JUNGLE DRUMS TELL ME THIS IS
THE DAUGHTER OF KING SHARON OF
KASORAI. SHE WAS KIDNAPPED BY
TWO MEN WHO HAVE SINCE
BEEN CAPTURED.



NOW THE RAYMOND
WILL BE OURS!



THERE'S THE CAVE.
MELONE WENT ABOARD
HERE.



THE WINDY TRIBE!
THOSE OUTLAW REBELS
MUST HAVE THE
GIRL.



I MUST MOVE QUICKLY,
AND NO TIME TO
TO COLLECT THE RANSOM!
THEY'RE TRYING TO
OUTCART ME FROM THE
GOLD TRAIL.



TAKE THIS MESSAGE
TO KING BUCK! IF
YOU FAIL, YOU DIE!



CHIEF,
GIRL WAS
FOLLOWED
BY GHOST
AND WINDY.



THE PHANTOM!
THEY SAY HE NEVER
DIES! NOW WE
SHALL SEE.

THE GHOST WHO WALKS
SHALL WALK NO MORE.

WHAT?



TAKE HIM TO THE
BLACK WHIRLPOOL.

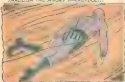
OH, WITHOUT A NET,
NO ONE CAN SURVIVE
SUCH RAGING WATERS!

MY FATHER'S
WIFE... FOLLY
I CAN
REACH IT

AH, I NEED
AID! MY LIMBS ARE
FURFLED.

THE PHANTOM IS DEAD!
NOW THE BLOOD THORN WILL
RULE THE JUNGLE! BUT FIRST,
WE NEED THE PHANTOM.

BUT THE PHANTOM IS NOT DEAD!
WITH THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN, HE
FOUGHT HIS WAY TO THE BLIMP
THROUGH THE ANGRY HUNTERS...



... AND CLIMBS TO A ROCK TO
CATCH HIS BREATH!



WHILE THE BAND DANCES
IN CELEBRATION OF THE
DEATH OF THE PHANTOM!



ABRUPTLY THE DANCE STOPS
AS THE NATIVES BEHOLD A MOST
UNUSUAL SPECTACLE



HOW CAN
A MAN
WATCH?

WHO COULD
IT BE?

THE LEGEND OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS IS BROUGHT HOME
TO THEM AGAIN, AS THE PHANTOM STEPS FROM THE JUNGLE.
THE NATIVES RISE IN AWE, RECOGNIZING SUCH AN UNUSUAL GUEST.
THE GIFT OF THE PHANTOM IS ENOUGH!



AH! HE
LIVES!!

I TOLD YOU
HE COULD
NOT DIE.

STOP!
COME
BACK!

MOMENTS
LATER,
ONLY THE
PHANTOM
AND THE
CHIEF
REMAIN
IN THE
CAMP.

LOOKS - OH
IT'S JUST YOU
AND ME, CHIEF!

OTHERS COMEDS!
CHIEF NOT
AFRAID...



THE CHIEF, THOUGH A WEAPONS
JUNKIE, HATES, AS NO MAN, FOR
THE POWER OF THE PHANTOM!

"WHEN THE PHANTOM IS ANGRY,
HE BLOWS SOULS LIKE THUNDER!
... OLD WISDOM SAYING,



PHANTOM... MY FATHER
HAS TOLD ME MANY STORIES
OF YOU, I - I DON'T
BELIEVE YOU WERE REAL!

WE'VE A LONG TRIP AHEAD OF US
BEFORE, MANY DANGERS
AWAIT US.

I'M NOT AFRAID,
PHANTOM... AS
LONG AS I'M
WITH YOU!

YES, I AM AFRAID, MELONIE;
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO
SEEING YOUR FATHER AGAIN!
HE IS A GREAT MAN!



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THE
PHANTOM

THE STORY OF
HERO PART
TWO

The LONG TRIP HOME

AFTER RESCUING THE PRINCESS
MELONIE FROM SAKU OUTLAWS,
THE PHANTOM HEADS THE CARAVAN
TOWARD THE KINGDOM OF
KABOBA, AND HER FATHER, KING
BURORI. BUT MANY DANGERS
STILL LIE AHEAD.

GET DOWN,
MELONIE!
THEY'VE GOT
BUSINESS!



SOON YOU'LL HAVE A HAPPY
RELATION WITH YOUR FATHER,
MELONIE!

WE'RE RUNNING INTO
RAPIDS! HANDS ON
TIGHT, MELONIE!

JUMP, MELONIE!!

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO DO
THE BEST OF THE WAY ON FOOT.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES, I'M
OKAY.

WHEEL MELODY AND THE
PHANTOM AREN'T TAKING ANY
THROUGH THE WOODS...



...AND BARRY IS PRESSING HIS
SOLDIERS TO COME THE TERRITORY
FOR THE MISSING!



THE ARMY FANS OUT INTO THE WOODS...
DETERMINED TO SEARCH EVERY SQUARE
INCH OF IT...



THE NEXT DAY...





WITH KEEN EAGLE EYE, THE PHANTOM HUNTS HIS WAY BEHIND THE SOLDIERS...



HOLD YOUR FIRE...
I'M A FRIEND!



Suddenly...



KIDNAPPER, NOW WE'VE
GOT YOU! YOU'LL DIE
FOR THIS.



DON'T
SHOOT!





HE & THE ALBATROSS!
HE SAVED MY LIFE.

THE PHANTOM KING
SURVIVED & FLYING!

A DAY'S JOURNEY
LATER, THEY REACH
THE KINGDOM OF
LATHOR...

HOME AT LAST
BEFORE.

MY FATHER,
HE MUST BE SO
WORRIED!



A JOYOUS RECEPTION
AWAITS THEM, AS
TRUMPETS HERALD
THEIR ARRIVAL...

FATHER,
FATHER!

HELLO!



THE PHANTOM, MY FRIEND,
ONCE YOU SAVED MY LIFE. NOW
YOU HAVE SAVED MY DAUGHTER.
I MUST REWARD YOU! JAY-
ZAKING I HAVE IS YOURS!



MY REWARD IS THE
HAPPINESS I SEE IN
YOUR FACE, KING
SLUDDY!

BUT YOU MUST
ACCEPT SOME
GIFT.

AWAY! GO!



A JACKAL... IT'S
ATTACKING ONE OF
THE GUARDS.



SUDDENLY, AS IF FROM OUT OF THE
AIR... A MAJESTIC WHITE HORSE
APPEARS!...



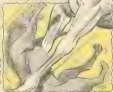
*THE JACKAL STOPS SHORT,
AS HE REALIZES HE MUST
FACE THIS NEW ENEMY...*



*HE LEAPS FOR THE
HORSE'S THROAT...*



...BUT, TOO LATE!



*THE JACKAL IS NO MATCH FOR
THE POWERFUL WHITE HORSE.*



*AFTER THE BATTLE IS WON,
THE MAN THE HORSE GENTLY
LICKS THE BLADE TO SEE
IF IT IS SHARP.*



THAT HORSE!
I'VE NEVER
SEEN ANY-
THING LIKE
HIM!

HE IS MY PRIZED
POSSESSION! THE
FINEST HORSE OF
THE COUNTRY.
HE SHOULD BELONG
TO A MAN LIKE YOU!
PHANTOM! TAKE
HIM, HE'S YOURS!
IT'S THE LEAST
I CAN DO!

THEN SOMETHING STRANGE
HAPPENS... THE WHITE HORSE
COMES TO THE PHANTOM AS IF
HE'D BROUGHT THEM
TOGETHER...

I DON'T THINK HE'LL LET
YOU LEAVE HIMSELF HIM.
HE SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN
A FANCY TO YOU!

HAIL THE PHANTOM! HAIL
HERO!

AND SO, DIANA... THAT IS HOW
I FOUND AERO! HE'S BEEN MY
FRIEND AND COMPANION EVER
SINCE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT
I'D DO WITHOUT HIM!

MR. ABERNATHY in 500 POUNDS of POOCH

LOOK, CHARLIE
THERE'S A DOG
WITHOUT A
LICENSE!

~~WOW!~~ HE'S
A BIG ONE!
MUST BE A
Giant
BERNARD!



HEY! THAT'S NO
DOG, IT'S AN
ELEPHANT!

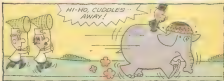
STOP! STOP!
YOU NEED A
LICENSE FOR
THAT ANIMAL!



QUICK! LET'S
RUN FOR IT!



HI-NO, CUDDLES --
AWAY!









HEY KIDS!

SEND FOR THIS MOOSE
DECAL FOR YOUR OWN
PERSONAL USE!

MOOSE



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